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Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard to drug trafficking and reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

World situation with regard to illicit drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report of the Secretariat

Addendum**

V. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

1. The recommendations emanating from the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 15 to 18 January 2002, are presented below.

A. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

1. Cocaine trafficking: an increasing threat to Europe

2. In order to counter the threat of cocaine trafficking to Europe, States unable to bear the full cost of the posting of law enforcement liaison officers should consider pooling their resources, for example by jointly funding overseas liaison officers. States should also encourage their law enforcement agencies to enter into working agreements with the maritime industry to enhance cooperation in order to increase

* E/CN.7/2002/1.

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their interdiction capacities and the security of their storage, distribution and transport operations.

3. States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹ should empower their law enforcement agencies to undertake controlled delivery operations, as provided for in the Convention. The European Police Office (Europol) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), with the support of the United Nations International Drug Control (UNDCP), should harmonize their manuals on controlled delivery procedures in order to contribute to more consistent and effective controlled delivery operations. To promote effective international cooperation and minimize delays, Governments should review procedures by which requests for judicial assistance from foreign authorities are dealt with. States should promote the method of financial asset investigation, in conjunction with law enforcement operations relating to cocaine trafficking, as an effective instrument for dismantling criminal organizations.

2. Cyber crime: a challenge for the new millennium

4. Governments should review existing legislation and introduce measures to facilitate the interception of communications of major criminal organizations and to deal with encryption. Member States of the European Union should benefit from Europol's assistance in monitoring trends in cyber crime and in coordinating the work undertaken by specialized units established by member States of the European Union for investigating cyber crime. States should ensure that resources are available to investigate high-technology crime and that specialist units are established to deal with encryption, provide a forensic investigation capability and develop effective liaison with the telecommunication industry, including Internet service providers. States should also consider the value of the Internet as an instrument for disseminating information on illicit drug demand reduction and messages against drug abuse.

3. Amphetamine-type stimulants: the global problem of the next decade

5. States should ensure that effective liaison between law enforcement authorities and the chemical industry is in place and should consider introducing memorandums of understanding as a framework for cooperation. They should also develop the technical means to investigate the diversion of chemical precursors. Appropriate and effective measures to implement the provisions of article 13 of the 1988 Convention should also be adopted. Governments should consider innovative initiatives to change the perception that the use of Ecstasy and other so-called "recreational drugs" is attractive and safe. States should also establish, at the national level, an integrated multi-agency approach and support, at the regional level, the creation of joint teams to ensure a coordinated and effective strategy. Cooperation and information exchange between the operational units specialized in countering trafficking in precursors should be enhanced among Member States.

4. Heroin: instability in Afghanistan and the consequences of the opium poppy ban

6. The Dublin Group, the European Union and UNDCP should review current procedures and consider the establishment of a focal point and other appropriate measures to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of international

assistance to Afghanistan. UNDCP should develop alternative development projects in Afghanistan to remove the incentive for opium poppy growers to resume the illicit production of opium poppy. A priority area for the international community should be the establishment in Afghanistan of a national law enforcement body capable of carrying out multi-ethnic intelligence-gathering tasks and investigations in order to help sustain the opium poppy ban, the elimination of illicit crops and the reduction in the availability of heroin. In the development of law enforcement projects, UNDCP should ensure that legal assistance is available to support the adoption of relevant legislation providing for controlled delivery operations and facilitate cooperation in international investigations. Governments should promote information-sharing and coordination through law enforcement channels wherever possible.

Notes

- ¹ *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).